REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated May 13, 2004. All rejections and objections of the Examiner are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

At paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-50 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. Amendments to the claims are believed to satisfy all requirements of the Examiner in this regard.

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9-20, 25-37, 39, 41, 45 and 47-50 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, citing U.S. patent 6,546,419 of Humpleman et al. ("Humpleman et al.") in combination with United States patent number 6,529,515 of Raz et al. ("Raz et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Humpleman et al. disclose a system that reads capabilities for a home device, including information in a structured format, reads similar capabilities information from another home device connected to the network, and compares the capabilities of the two devices to select one of the home devices responsive to the user interface displayed on the client device. The capabilities of the devices are obtained by the Humpleman et al. system in a structured format, such as an XML document. The Humpleman et al. system then sends control and command data from the client device to one or more of the home devices to cause the home devices to communicate with each other to perform requested services. Humpleman et al. describe the control and command data as being provided using XML RPCs (Remote Procedure Calls).

As noted in the previous response, and as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Final Office Action, Humpleman et al. is directed towards controlling home network devices through a

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system for controlling *components interconnected in a home network.* Humpleman et al.

describe controlling home entertainment components, kitchen appliances, security devices,

HVAC components, and the like. The services controlled and provided by the system of

Humpleman et al. are described as "source or sink services", such as MPEG sourcing/sinking and

display services. Humpleman et al. describe providing services such as Video-on-Demand,

Enhanced-TV, and Internet commerce, for example. The service capabilities described using

XML or the like in Humpleman et al., are thus far different in kind from data forwarding services

controlled by parsing of XML documents by the present invention, as set forth in the present

independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48. In addition, the home network devices as described in

Humpleman et al. stand in clear contrast to the data forwarding devices of the present invention

as set forth in the independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48. Accordingly, since the Humpleman et al.

reference is insufficient by itself as basis for rejection, in the Final Office Action the Examiner

additionally cites Raz et al. to assert an obviousness-type rejection in combination with

Humpleman et al.

Raz et al. disclose a distributed network management function using a set of active nodes,

each including a router and a logically-separate active engine. As taught by Raz et al., the router

in an active node diverts active packets associated with the network management function to the

corresponding active engine for processing. One or more sessions, based on the active packets,

implement at least a portion of the network management function in the Raz et al. system. The

router of Raz et al. is described as including a routing processor and a simple network

management protocol (SNMP) module, and performs conventional IP (Internet Protocol) routing

functions such as forwarding, routing, and filtering, and agents are described as operating on a

Management Information Base (MIB) to control forwarding operation.

Applicants respectfully urge that neither Humpleman et al. nor Raz et al. includes any disclosure or suggestion of causing a network device to locally perform a data forwarding related service that operates by:

> receiving at the network device *a document written in accordance with a markup language* and a corresponding document definition, *wherein the document describes a data forwarding service*;
> parsing by the network device the received document in accordance with the corresponding document definition, *wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service*; and
> *executing the data forwarding service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document* (emphasis added).

as in the present independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48. In contrast, the XML documents of Humpleman et al. are used to convey *home device capabilities*, which are later invoked using XML remote procedure calls. In further contrast, Raz et al. describe communications with the SNMP module 18 of Fig. 1 as follows:

> The SNMP API in the sessions 22-1, 22-2, . . . 22-N may be implemented as a Java object that communicates with the router 12 using *well-known SNMP techniques. Standard SNMP agents exist in most conventional routers and provide a read/write interface to a standard MIB. In other embodiments, performance may be enhanced by caching popular MIB objects* . . . (emphasis added)

Accordingly the combination of Raz et al. and Humpleman et al. provides no hint or suggestion of even the desirability of having any way to communicate with any device regarding data forwarding services other than using a "read/write interface to a standard MIB", as described by Raz et al. The combined Raz et al. and Humpleman et al. therefore fail to foresee any need for one of the key advantages of the presently claimed system, which is the ability to provide services beyond that which may be available through a standard MIB. In sum, the combined references include no hint or suggestion of *parsing by a network device a received document in*

accordance with a corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing a data forwarding service, as in the present independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that Humpleman et al. foresee a system for effecting data forwarding services in response to parsing of mark-up language documents. In the section cited by the Examiner at lines 36-49 of column 1 in Humpleman et al., mention of a network is made as *background material,* prior to the more narrow definition of a *home network,* which is consistently used throughout the remainder of the Humpleman et al. disclosure, and to which the teachings of Humpleman et al. are clearly intended to apply. Significantly, the definition of "devices" in this section includes only "home devices" and "general purpose computers". Accordingly, the following description in the remainder of Humpleman et al. is meant to apply not to networks in general, but specifically to home networks including home devices and general purpose computers.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully urge that the combination of Humpleman et al. and Raz et al. does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present invention as set forth in the independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48. Accordingly, the combination of Humpleman et al. and Raz et al. does not form a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. with regard to independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48. As to claims 2-4, 9-16, 18-20, 25-32, 34-37, 39, 41-45, 47 and 49-50, they each depend from claims 1, 17, 33 and 48, and are believed to be patentable over the combination of Humpleman et al. and Raz et al. for at least the same reasons.

In paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-8, 21-24, 38, 40 and 46 for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103, again citing Humpleman et al. and Raz et al., in combinations with U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0032709 of Gessner ("Gessner") and

"Dynamic Classification in Silicon-based Forwarding Engine Environments" ("Jaeger"). Like the combination of Humpleman et al. and Raz et al., these cited combinations of references fail to disclose or suggest any system or method for causing a network device to locally perform a data forwarding related service that operates by:

> receiving at the network device *a document written in accordance with a markup language* and a corresponding document definition, *wherein the document describes a data forwarding service*;
> parsing by the network device the received document in accordance with the corresponding document definition, *wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding service*; and
> *executing the data forwarding service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document* (emphasis added).

as in the present independent claims 1, 17 and 33. The cited combinations of references include no hint or suggestion of any step or feature that includes *parsing by a network device a received document in accordance with a corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing a data forwarding service*, as in claims 1, 17 and 33. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge that the cited combinations of Humpleman et al. and Raz et al. with Gessner and Jaeger do not disclose or suggest all the features of the present invention as set forth in the independent claims 1, 17 and 33. Accordingly, these cited combinations do not form the basis of a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to independent claims 1, 17 and 33. As claims 5-8, 21-24, 38, 40 and 46 each depend from claims 1, 17 and 33, they are respectfully believed to be patentable over the cited combinations with Humpleman et al. for at least the same reasons.

Reconsideration of all claims and withdrawal of all rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully

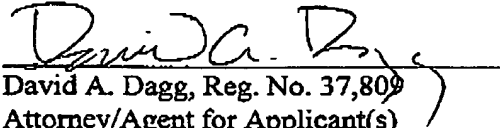Serial No. 09/692,949   - 14 -   Art Unit: 2153

requested that the Examiner telephone David A. Dagg, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so

that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now

considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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